

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 208829

41

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208829

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EFIS, US, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE FISHING IN NORTH PACIFIC

REF: A. STATE 192187; B. TOKYO 11595

1. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HAS SUBMITTED TO THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON JAPANESE FISHING IN THE NORTH PACIFIC THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS ON CORRECTIVE ACTIONS THAT JAPAN MIGHT TAKE:

A. EASTERN BERING SEA

1. OVERALL POLLOCK CATCH NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION TONS ANNUALLY AND AGGREGATE GROUND FISH CATCH OF ALL OTHER SPECIES NOT TO EXCEED 100,000 TONS ANNUALLY.

2. PROHIBIT TRAWLING SOUTH OF 56 DEGREES 30 MINUTES NORTH, EAST OF 170 DEGREES WEST FROM DECEMBER 1 TO MAY 31.

-- 3. PHASE OUT JAPAN'S FISHING FOR KING AND TANNER CRAB OFF US CONTINENTAL SHELF.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 208829

4. REDUCE CATCH CEILING FOR HERRING IN EASTERN BERING SEA TO 15,000 MT FOR JAPANESE TRAWL FISHING AND 1,500 MT JAPANESE GILLNET FISHERY.

B. NORTH EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

1. NO FISHING BY JAPAN IN NORTH EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN, EXCEPT BERING SEA, IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

2. NO FISHING AT ANY TIME BY JAPAN IN INPFC CHERIKOF-KODIAK AREAS (159 DEGREES WEST - 147 DEGREES WEST LONG.) AND SOUTH OF 48 DEGREES 30 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE.

3. CATCH OF INDIVIDUAL SPECIES BY JAPAN IN AREAS REMAINING OPEN IN NE PACIFIC NOT TO EXCEED 1971 LEVELS.

C. OTHER MEASURES

1. GOJ TO CONTROL LEVEL OF HIGH SEAS FISHING FOR SALMON.

2. JAPAN NOT TO DEVELOP NEW FISHING OPERATIONS IN EASTERN BERING SEA AND GULF OF ALASKA WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH USG.

2. COMMERCE ESTIMATES THAT ABOVE MEASURES WOULD REDUCE JAPANESE CATCH IN NORTH EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN BY ABOUT 45,000 TONS OR 35 PERCENT OF 1972 LEVEL.

3. DEPT NEEDS SOONEST EMBASSY ESTIMATE OF:

A. PROBABLE EFFECT OF PROPOSED MEASURES ON JAPANESE ECONOMY, INCLUDING NUMBER OF JOBS INVOLVED, DOLLAR VALUE OF REDUCTION, AND EFFECT ON CONSUMER PRICE OF FISH.

B. POLITICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN GOJ ACQUIESCING TO PROPOSAL.

C. POSSIBLE JAPANESE COUNTER PROPOSALS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 208829

4. IN VIEW SENSITIVITY OF SUBJECT, EMBASSY SHOULD PREPARE ESTIMATES WITHOUT CONTACTING GOJ.

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